

Washington, July 1.—Secretary Alger has received the following dispatch from Gen. Shafter, dated at 9:45 a. m. today:

"Camp at Sevilla, Cuba, July 1.—Action now going on, but firing light and desultory. It begun on the right near Caney, with Lawton's division. He will move on the northeast part of the town of Santiago. Will keep you fully advised of progress.

"SHAFTER,

"Major General Commanding."

Secretary Alger directed Adj. Gen. Corbin to notify the President at once of the text of Shafter's message, and it was done. The President will be kept continuously advised of all news.

Secretary Alger left for the cabinet meeting at 11 o'clock, saying that nothing more had been received since Gen. Shafter's first dispatch.

Playa del Este, July 1, 11:30 a. m.—(Copyrighted, 1898, by the Associated Press.)—A general assault on the city of Santiago de Cuba by the land and sea forces of the United States began at 7 o'clock this morning. Gen. Lawton advanced and took possession of Cabona, a suburb of Santiago.

Morro Castle and the other forts at the entrance of the harbor were bombarded by our fleet. The Vesuvius used her dynamite guns with good effect.

The Spanish fleet in the harbor fired on the American troops who were very close to the city.

Hard fighting all along the American line was in progress at 11 o'clock.

Nine wounded Cubans have been brought in.

Washington, July 1.—A dispatch was received in the cabinet meeting from Col. Allen, in charge of the signal station at Playa del Este. He said that the fight was growing furious in all directions. The time he sent the telegram eight Americans and nine Cubans had been wounded. The Spaniards were shelling the Americans as they advanced, and Admiral Sampson's fleet was hotly engaging the forts.

Washington, July 1, 5 p.m.—Signal office has received the following from one of its officers at the front:

"American troops are driving the Spanish troops back. Wounded being brought in right along."

New Orleans, July 1.—Nine negroes were drowned near Plaquemine by the upsetting of a skiff.

Young Richard (white) and three colored men were saved by holding on to the skiff.

Iron Mountain, Michigan, July 1.—Prosper Duchain and Charles Cuscol, miners, were killed at the Aragon mine today by a fall of ground. Five others were badly hurt.

New York, July 2.—A copyrighted dispatch to the Evening World dated "In the field, two miles from Santiago, July 1," and cabled from Playa del Este, says:

San Juan Heights have fallen, and the way is now opened for an advance on Morro Castle. It was a glorious victory, but very dearly purchased.

The place was the strongest Spanish outpost, well fortified and valiantly defended. The position was an excellent one. It was also occupied by barracks and other buildings. But the American troops stormed the heights and Spanish valor had to yield to the bulldog tenacity and courage of the Anglo-Saxon.

As I write our troops are swarming up the hill and covering it like ants. The Spaniards are demoralized. The fighting has been of the hardest kind and our troops have suffered severely, but the enemy's works are in their hands and they do not count the cost. El Caney is also ours. The general advance which began at 3 p. m., has been successful all along the line.

After driving the enemy out of El

Caney the troops took possession of the village and destroyed the Spanish forts by which it had been defended. The Spaniards fled into the city of Santiago, where they now are.

The losses on both sides were heavy. A bursting Spanish shell almost annihilated an entire company of our troops.

Madrid, July 5, 3 a. m.—The general public of the Spanish capital at this hour still believe Admiral Cervera and his squadron have escaped from Santiago de Cuba, thanks to the official dispatches given out by the government and interviews granted by the ministers.

A dispatch from Captain General Blanco says:

"Cervera's squadron at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning, broke the center of the line of the American fleet and proceeded at full speed in a westerly direction."

"I am highly pleased with the feat of arms performed by Admiral Cervera's squadron, which left Santiago the moment Admiral Cervera judged it opportune to do so."

"The squadron could only leave the harbor at a given moment, and when the moment arrived Admiral Cervera seized it. I have never doubted he would do so. But of course it is difficult to foresee the result. The American squadron was taken by surprise. After attacking us the American admiral detached five of his best ships which steamed for some time abreast of ours, but they were soon left astern.

"Only the Iowa and Brooklyn were able to follow our fleet, but it is certain they will not do so far for fear of reprisals on our part. Admiral Cervera deserves great praise."

It is said in Madrid that Gen. Pando is still at Havana and that the reinforcements for Santiago de Cuba are commanded by Gen. Pareja and Col. Escarce and Nario.

Noon.—Not one of the official dispatches received from Cuba up to this hour make mention of the destruction of Admiral Cervera's squadron. Consequently the American accounts of battle cause immense surprise and sensation, though they are discredited by the Spanish officials.

Washington, July 4.—A remarkable feature of the fighting in Cuba and one much commented upon in military circles, is the heavy loss in killed and wounded of commissioned and non-commissioned officers. In spite of the distress which the loss of so many officers has occasioned, the army officials point to the list as splendid evidence of the dash and personal bravery of the men who wear shoulder straps.

Among the killed and wounded since the first fight at Juragua have been officers of every grade from colonel down and in numbers said to be almost unprecedented in proportion to the forces engaged.

The loss of officers in the two days fighting around Santiago demonstrates to military men that the American officers lead their men wherever they are called to go and are setting an example which cannot but elevate the esprit de corps of the army.

Her hurricane deck was loosened in the gale and all those on board were either drowned or struggled desperately to get from under the decks or out of the cabin. The steamer was seen to go down by persons on both sides of the bay and boats put out to the wreck, reaching her in a few moments. Those in the water were quickly hauled aboard and with the living were put into the boat a number of dead, including the bodies of two children.

The scene while the work of rescue was going on was a fearful one, as over

half of those on board were women, and their screams could be heard for miles. Many clung to the top of the hurricane deck and supported themselves until the boats came, while others grasped the flagstaffs and even the smoke stack.

Beverly, Mass., July 4.—The small excursion steamer, Surf City, with about sixty passengers on board, while half way over from Salem Willows to the wharf here, a distance of about six miles, was struck by a terrific squall about 6 o'clock tonight and capsized. Of those on board a large majority are believed to have been rescued by boats from both Salem and Beverly shores, but less than six bodies had been recovered at dark, and as it is known that many rushed into the cabin before the squall, it is thought that twice as many bodies are still confined there. As one or two of those taken ashore are in a critical condition, it appears likely that the list of dead may reach a score.

The vessel had just reached Beverly Beach when the storm struck, and at the same time a lightning bolt struck the beacon at the end of the bar. Amid the terrific din of the thunder which followed the lightning flashes, the fearful whirlwind caught the little steamer, careened it over to starboard and went down, all so suddenly that even the commander had the greatest difficulty in getting out of the boat. The boat sank in about fifteen feet of water.

New York, July 5.—The World says: Admiral Dewey's blockade of the Philippines threatens to create a cordage dearth throughout the civilized world. It has doubled the price of Manila rope and twine in this country and by doubling the value of Manila hemp has made fortunes for manufacturers who had large stocks in reserve.

The John Goode Cordage and Machine company, which was forced into the hands of a receiver several months ago, was among the concerns which held a reserve stock of the hemp, and steps are being taken to reorganize the company on a solid financial basis.

John Goode of cordage fame, discussed the situation at the machine works, Parke and Washington avenues, Brooklyn.

"It will require," he said, "about 150,000,000 pounds of Manila twine to bind this year's wheat crop in the United States. From the closest estimates we can make we find the present supply of Manila hemp outside of the Philippines will be exhausted in three months. As considerable time is required to transport the hemp from Manila to this country, we will have to arrange matters soon, or the cordage manufacturers will find themselves without any raw material.

"In that event the great western wheat farms would soon have no binding material to use on their reapers and might be forced back to the old fashioned method of binding their sheaves with straw. This would be a tremendous task in the fields which cover miles upon miles of territory and might result in the loss of much of the grain through exposure to the weather. Sisal twine, the material for which comes from Mexico, might be substituted in the reapers for the Manila, but the supply of that is limited, and would certainly not be sufficient to meet the demand.

"You may gain some idea of the immensity of the demand when I tell you the 150,000,000 pounds of twine required this year by the farmers would contain ninety million lineal feet and would cost them about \$18,000,000. Since the war began the price of Manila hemp has run up from 4 to 8½ cents a pound. I think it is selling at 8 cents today. English merchants, through their local agents, are offering it for sale here at the market price, but will not guarantee its delivery here at any specified time."